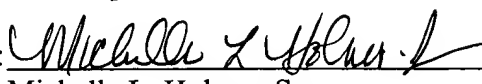


have been canceled. Thus the rejection is rendered moot.

Withdrawal of this rejection and a speedy allowance of all remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 30, 2002

By: 
Michelle L. Holmes-Son
Registration No. 47,660

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
Eleventh Floor
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 508-9100